

September 14, 2020 Covid Update

Selectman Anthony Vegnani thanked Fire Chief John Murphy for having the 9/11 ceremony last Friday which had a good turnout.

Mr. Vegnani said this will be the last weekend that Front Street will be closed for outside dining. After Sunday night, Front Street will be open. He urged residents to drive slowly. He said outside dining will continue on the sidewalk, behind some establishments and in some parking areas.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said there were eight new COVID cases recorded with only two actually occurring in Scituate. The other six tested positive out of state and are quarantining there. The assumption is that these are college students. Because they are Scituate residents they are added to the town's numbers.

The town-wide water ban is still in place. The reservoir is 35.43 percent full with 683,000 gallons being used daily. The treatment process for manganese has been successful. When comparing the raw water coming into the plant to the treated water going out, the manganese is down by half.

Mr. Boudreau said prep work for the Cedar Point construction project has begun with surveying and test pits. The project also includes offering videos of the foundations of the houses (inside and out) so there will be proof if any damage should occur due to construction. Mr. Boudreau said the videotaping is something residents may want to consider. Actual construction will start in a couple of weeks with updates on the town website every Friday. He said the project will cause considerable disruption.

The Egypt Beach project starts this week and will run for two weeks. The stones are significantly smaller than those used at Mann Hill and will be buried under existing stones. The berm will be 18-24 inches taller but should have the same look and feel as the existing beach.

The school committee meets on Zoom tonight at 6 p.m. Check the school website for Zoom link.

Superintendent Bill Burkhardt said it has been six months since students have populated the school buildings and it will be exciting to have the kids back. Classrooms and schools look wonderful thanks to the great custodians. The schools are operating on the hybrid model with a mix of in-school and remote learning. Outdoor learning tents

are going up. Opening day Wednesday (Sept. 16) for grades 1-12 is a fully remote day but buses will roll on Thursday (Sept. 17). Kindergarten starts Thursday with Early Childhood Center starting Monday (Sept. 21).

Each school sent out a letter last week with specific details. In addition, orientations will begin Wednesday where students in small groups will have the opportunity to visit their school.

Wednesday evening (Sept. 16) there will be a parent orientation for elementary school students.

The school department in conjunction with Scituate Community Cable is rolling out videos about the day in the life of students.

The Medical Advisory Committee is meeting regularly on Thursday mornings with the goal to review weekly Covid data and metrics. Starting Thursday (Sept. 17) in the Thursday Thoughts online newsletter, the committee will include a report in layman's terms about the latest medical data and what the decision making process is based on that data.